

Your committee further report that there is much of the work, including the recording of deeds, and the transmission of copies of records of important cases to the Court of Appeals of the administration of the late incumbent in said office, still lying over and unfinished, which, however, he is now engaged in having brought forward.

In reference to the financial department of said office, your committee beg leave to report, that in the first entrance upon it, they discovered it to be an utterly hopeless task to attempt to complete it, within the limited period of the present session of the General Assembly. There were no books of the cash accounts, of the receipts or expenditures of said office kept, or if kept, they were not to be found. The fees are not taxed up on the dockets for months back. There were no books of charges of fees in said office, the late incumbent having taken them away, at the time he retired, as it is alleged, rightly, in order to enable him to collect the fees due upon them, to which he claims to be entitled. There is, therefore, no way left to ascertain the amount of receipts of said office, but by a patient examination of the recording done, and docket entries made in said office, together with the examination of witnesses, as to the average amount of its receipts. One important fact however, connected with this branch of their duties, came to the knowledge of your committee, and which they deem it their imperative duty to state, is, that whereas the late incumbent has returned to the comptroller of the treasury, all his subordinates as paid for their services, some of said subordinates now claim large sums as due from him to them for their said services, and for which they state it as their intention to apply to the General Assembly to be paid. If your honorable body design that this investigation shall be further pushed into a full and complete examination of the financial department of said office, as by your order it is contemplated shall be done, and your committee think it proper and necessary, and advise that it should be done, it will require that your honorable body shall authorize your committee or some other persons to perform the task during the recess of the General Assembly.

Before closing this report, your committee deem it a duty to state to your honorable body, that the system adopted for the administration of the various departments of said office, by the present incumbent, which he exhibited to us, will insure the faithful and accurate discharge of every duty connected with its management.

Your committee further report, that in their opinion it will require the sum, or thereabouts, of five thousand dollars, to repair and put in order the books and records of said office, and hereby recommend the appropriation of that sum, or so